

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown in the listing of claims below that replaces all prior versions and listings of claims.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~containing~~comprising ghrelin or its derivative and an aqueous solution which dissolves the ghrelin, wherein the pH of ~~an~~ the aqueous solution dissolving the ghrelins is from 2 to 7.

Claim 2. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein said pH is from 3 to 6.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claims 1 or 2, ~~in which~~further comprising a pH adjuster or a buffer agent ~~is further contained~~.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein the pH adjuster is ~~one or more selected from the group consisting of~~ hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, boric acid, carbonic acid, bicarbonic acid, gluconic acid, sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, aqueous ammonia, citric acid, monoethanolamine, lactic acid, acetic acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, phosphoric acid, methanesulfonic acid, malic acid, propionic acid, trifluoroacetic acid, a and salt thereof or mixtures thereof.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein the buffer agent is ~~one or more selected from the group consisting of~~ glycine, acetic acid, citric acid, boric acid, phthalic acid, phosphoric acid, succinic acid, lactic acid, tartaric acid, carbonic acid, hydrochloric acid, sodium hydroxide ~~and~~, the salt thereof, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 5,~~claim 3, wherein the concentration of the pH adjuster or the buffer agent in the solution is in the range of from 0.01 mM to 1000 mM.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6,~~claim 1, wherein the solution is buffer solution.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7, wherein the buffer solution is glycine hydrochloride buffer, acetate buffer, citrate buffer, lactate buffer, phosphate buffer, citric acid-phosphate buffer, phosphate-acetate-borate buffer or phthalate buffer or mixtures thereof.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of~~ claim 1 ~~to 8~~, wherein the concentration of the ghrelins in the solution is in the range of 0.03 nmol/mL to 6 μ mol/mL.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~, claim 1, wherein the ghrelins is acetic acid salt.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~, claim 1, wherein the ghrelins is human ghrelin.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 11, wherein claim 1, further comprising an anti-adsorbent ~~is further contained~~.

Claim 13. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12, wherein the concentration of the anti-adsorbent is in the range of from 0.001% to 5%.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12 or 13, wherein the anti-adsorbent is a surfactant.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition ~~containing~~ comprising the ghrelins of claim 1 in which the form of a dried powder obtained from a solution ~~of claimed in~~ ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~, by drying ~~is contained~~.

Claim 16. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 15, wherein the powder is a lyophilized powder.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) A method for preventing ~~a~~ degradation of a hydrophobic group of ghrelin or its derivative in a solution ~~containing~~ comprising the ghrelins which method comprises adjusting the pH of the solution in the range of from 2 to 7.

Claim 18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein said pH of the solution is adjusted to 3 to 6.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) A method according to claims 17 or 18, ~~wherein a~~further comprising a pH adjuster or a buffer agent ~~is further contained~~.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 19, ~~wherein one or more~~further comprising a pH adjuster selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, boric acid, carbonic acid, bicarbonic acid, gluconic acid, sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, aqueous ammonia, citric acid, monoethanolamine, lactic acid, acetic acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, phosphoric acid, methanesulfonic acid, malic acid, propionic acid, trifluoroacetic acid, ~~and a salt thereof is contained~~and mixtures thereof.

Claim 21. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 19, ~~wherein one or more~~further comprising a buffer agent selected from the group consisting of glycine, acetic acid, citric acid, boric acid, phthalic acid, phosphoric acid, succinic acid, lactic acid, tartaric acid, carbonic acid, hydrochloric acid, sodium hydroxide ~~and the salt thereof is contained~~, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 22. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 19 to 21~~, claim 19, wherein the concentration of the pH adjuster or the buffer agent in the solution is in the range of 0.01 mM to 1000 mM.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 22~~, claim 17, wherein the solution is buffer solution.

Claim 24. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 23, wherein the buffer solution is glycine hydrochloride buffer, acetate buffer, citrate buffer, lactate buffer, phosphate buffer, citric acid-phosphate buffer, phosphate-acetate-borate buffer ~~or~~, phthalate buffer, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 25. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claim 17 to 24,~~17, wherein the concentration of the ghrelins in the solution is in the range of from 0.03nmol/mL to 6μmol/mL.

Claim 26. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 25,~~claim 17, wherein the ghrelins is an acetic acid salt.

Claim 27. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 17 to 26,~~claim 17, wherein the ghrelins is a human ghrelin.